

OUR ARMY SHARES IN GREAT VICTORY

Canadians Played Leading Part in Toughest Battles of Europe

Review of Offensives

Through the hot, blistering sun of Sicily and Italy . . . the rain, the cold and the mud of France, Belgium and Holland . . . the final VICTORY . . . is the saga of the Canadian Army overseas. Here are the highlights of their advance from the sunny shores of the Mediterranean . . . the beaches of Normandy and on through Germany . . .

1939

Aug. 16: N.P.A.M. units called out on Home Service; Sept. 1: Germans attack Poland. Canadian 1st and 2nd Divisions authorized as Canadian Active Service Force; Sept. 3: Great Britain declares war on Germany; Oct. 6: Major-General A. G. L. McNaughton to command 1st Canadian Division; Dec. 17: First contingent of Canadian 1st Division arrives in United Kingdom.

1940

Jan. 24: The King inspects units of 1st Canadian Division in England; July 5: Hon. J. L. Ralston appointed minister of national defence; July 19: Lieut.-Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton takes over British Corps; July 21: Maj.-Gen. H. D. G. Crerar becomes Chief of the General Staff; July 29: First call-up of 30-day training

1941

June 19: Establishment of O.T.C.'s at Brockville and Gordon Head, B.C.; June 27: Formation of Canadian Women's Army Corps; Sept. 5: Canadian nurses leave for South Africa; Canadians occupy Spitzbergen; Dec. 16: Lieut.-Gen. Stuart appointed Chief of General Staff. Canadians at Hong Kong; Dec. 25: Minister's statement on Hong Kong surrender.

1942

Feb. 3: Lt.-Gen. McNaughton returns to Canada; May 6: Record recruiting day—609 enlistments; June 12: Japanese land on Aleutians; Aug. 19: Canadians in raid on Dieppe. Ralston makes statement. First CWAC party arrives in United Kingdom; Sept. 17: Statement by Mr. Ralston on Dieppe operation; Oct. 16: SS. Caribou sunk in Gulf; Dec. 30: First Canadians (300 all ranks) to Eighth Army in North Africa.

1943

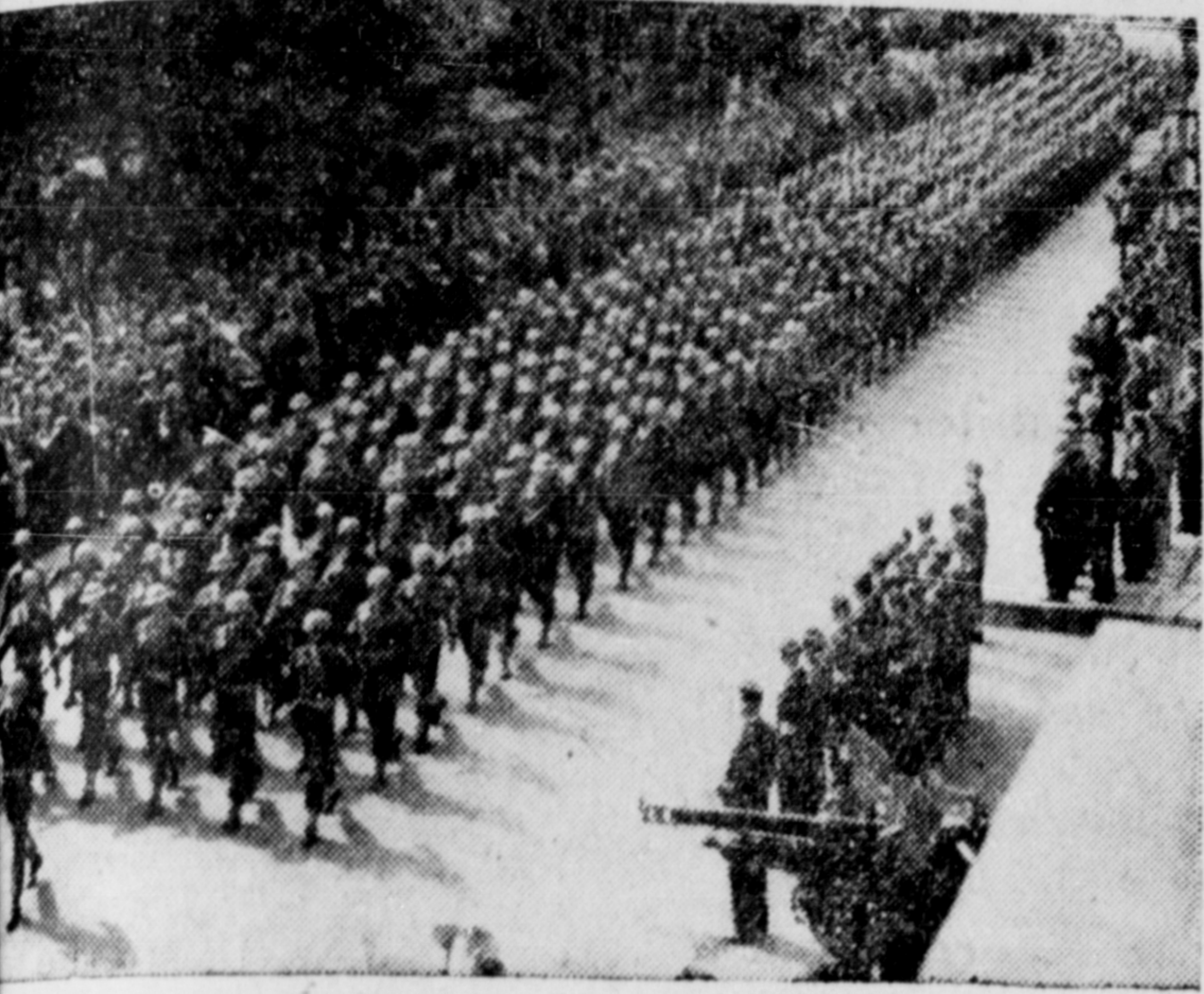
April 2: First Canadian hospital ship arrives at Halifax; May 1: Canadians in Tunisia as observers; May 12: Fighting ends in North Africa; July 10: Canadian 1st Division and 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade lands in Sicily; Aug. 6: Canadian troops start preparation to invade Italy; Aug. 13: First announcement of Sicily casualties; Aug. 16-17: Messina occupied. Fighting in Sicily ends; Aug. 22: Announcement of Kiska landings; Sept. 3: Canadian 1st Division and 1st Canadian Army Tank Brigade land at Reggio, Italy and advance northward rapidly; Sept. 8: Unconditional surrender of Italy announced; Sept. 19: Capture of Potenza by Canadian 1st Division; Oct. 14: Capture of Campobasso by Canadian First Division; Dec. 8-9: 1st Canadian Division attacks across Moro River; Dec. 12: Retirement of General McNaughton as Army Commander; Dec. 11-19: Battle of Berardi Crossroads. V.C. is awarded Major Triquet; Dec. 20-28: Assault, capture and clearing of Ortona by 1st Canadian Division; Dec. 26: 1st Canadian Corps formed in Italy; Dec. 29: 1st Canadian Corps moves to Arielle front.

1944

Jan. 22: Landing at Anzio; Jan. 26: Kiska force returns to Canada; Jan. 28: 1st Canadian Corps under Lieut.-Gen. Crerar with Eighth Army; Feb. 3: General McNaughton returns to Canada; April 24: 1st Canadian Corps moves from Arielle area; May 23: Assault and breaking of Adolf Hitler Line, by 1st Canadian Corps; May 24: Major Mahoney secures bridgehead and wins V.C. at Melfa River crossing; June 4: 1st Canadian Corps came into Army Reserve. Rome fell to the Fifth Army; June 6: D-DAY. Canadian 3rd Division lands in Normandy; July 4: Battle of Carpiquet; July 8: Capture of Caen; July 9: Canadian 2nd Division lands in Normandy; Aug. 8: Caen breakthrough; Aug. 19: Falaise Gap closed. Major D. V. Currie wins V.C.; Aug. 23: Paris liberated; Sept. 1: Dieppe re-entred; September 2: Gothic Line in Italy broken; Sept. 7: River Somme crossed; Sept. 12: Canadians take Le Havre; Sept. 20: Canadians capture Boulogne; Sept. 30: Calais liberated; Oct. 7-22: Battle of Schelde; Nov. 1: Antwerp port cleared; Nov. 2: Ralston resigns. McNaughton new minister of national defence; Dec. 12: V.C. announced for Pte. E. A. (Snokey) Smith.

1945

Feb. 8: Canadians open Siegfried offensive; Feb. 12: Canadians take Cleve; Feb. 15: Rhine River reached; March 23: Canadian 3rd Division crosses Rhine; March 30: Canadians capture Emmerich and drive north into Holland; April 18: Canadians in Holland seal off German escape; May 2: Fighting in Holland ceases; May 4: War in Europe ends.



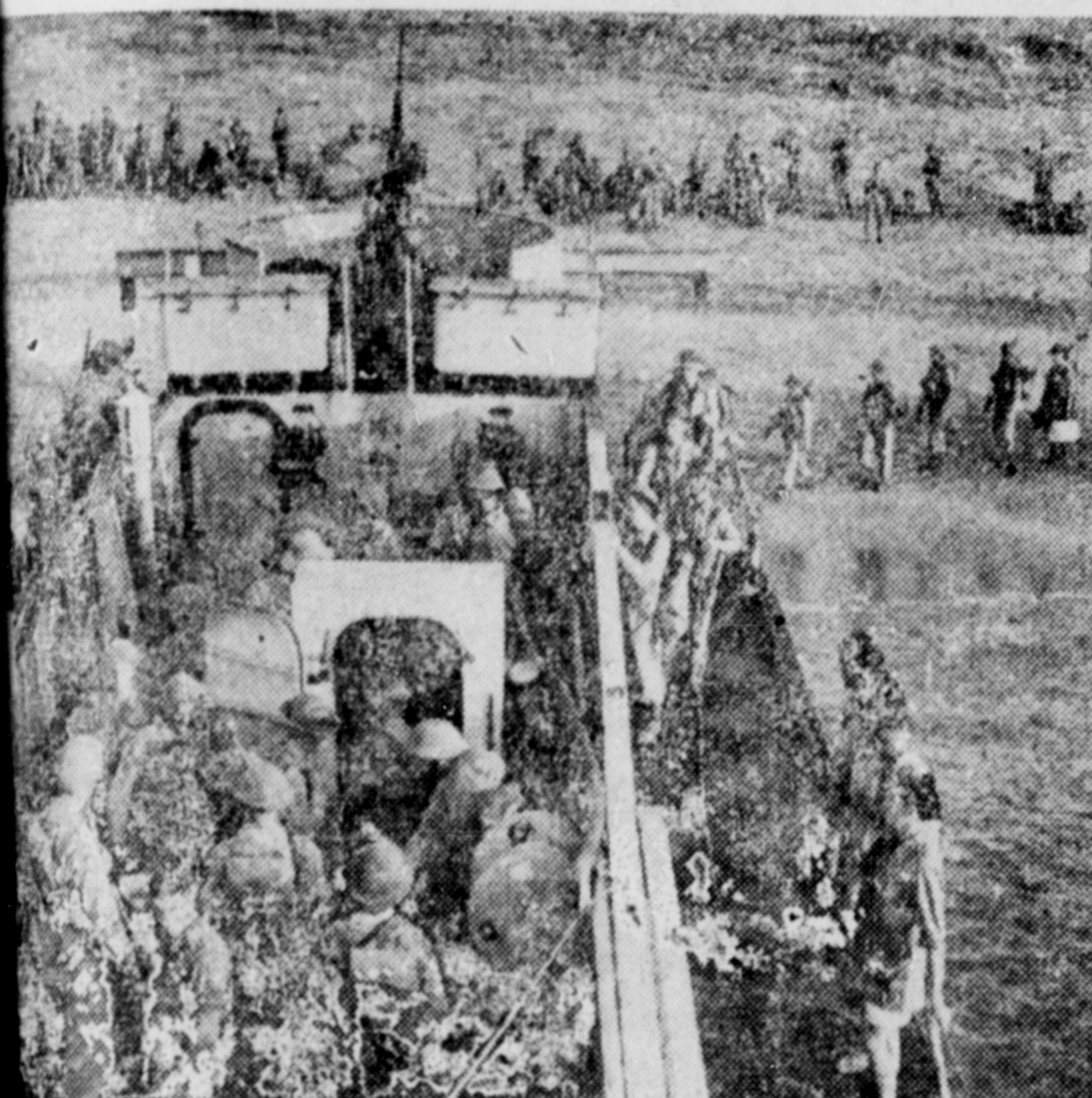
DIEPPE—Canadians march victoriously through the streets of Dieppe as they suffered casualties in the first large scale combined operation, August 19, 1942.



SICILY—Under protecting fire Canadians, in a human chain, pass supplies ashore after they landed in Sicily, July 10, 1943.



WELL INTO SICILY—These men of a famous Canadian Highland regiment, advance from Regalbuto to Aderno, in Sicily. Sicily was captured in 38 days.



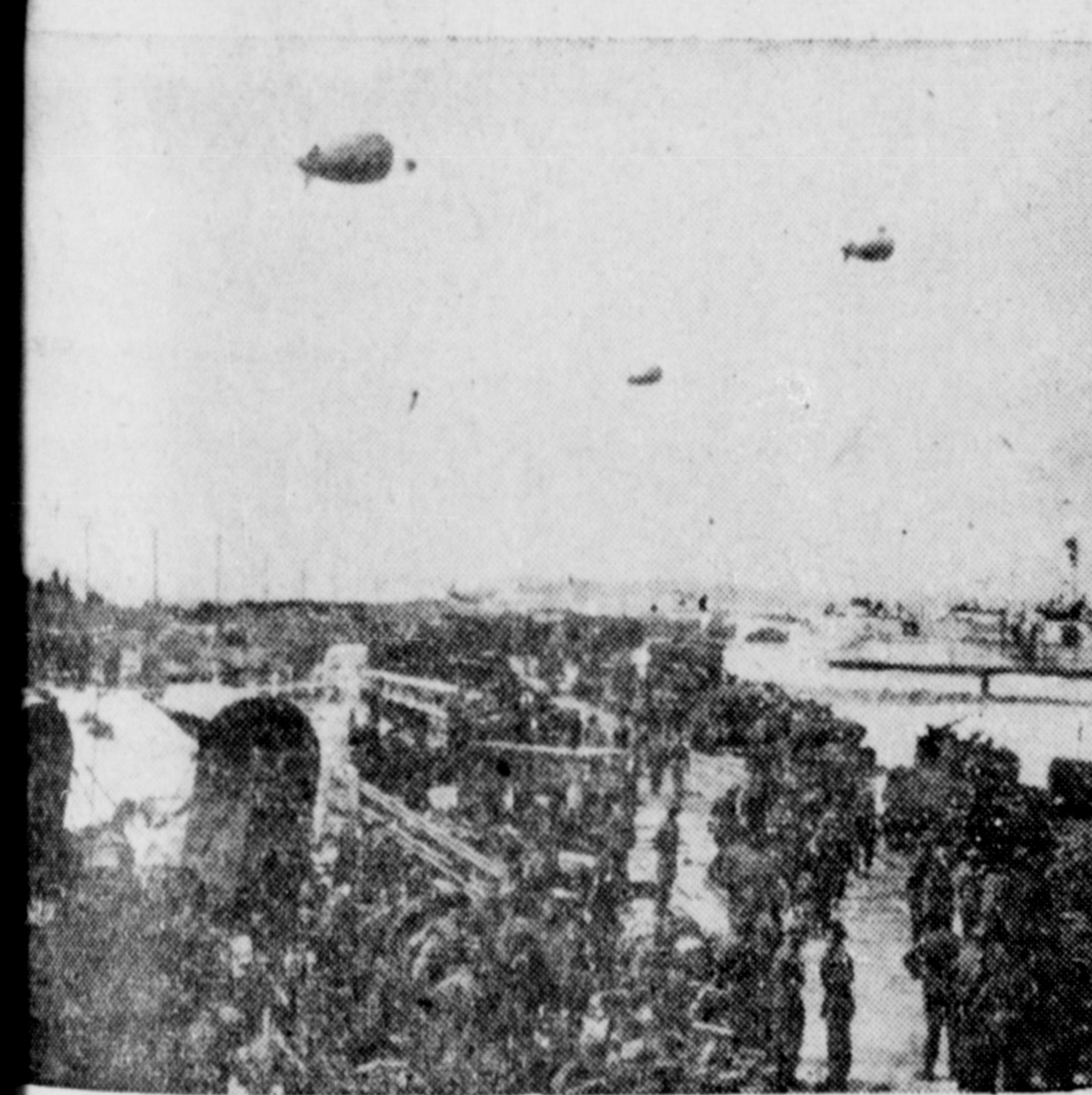
DIEPPE LANDING—It was on September 3, 1943, the Allies invaded Sicily. Canadians embark on landing craft for their assault upon the Axis one-time stronghold.



ORTONA—Canadians fought their way into Ortona, on the Adriatic, from street to street, house to house, floor to floor, before the enemy gave way.



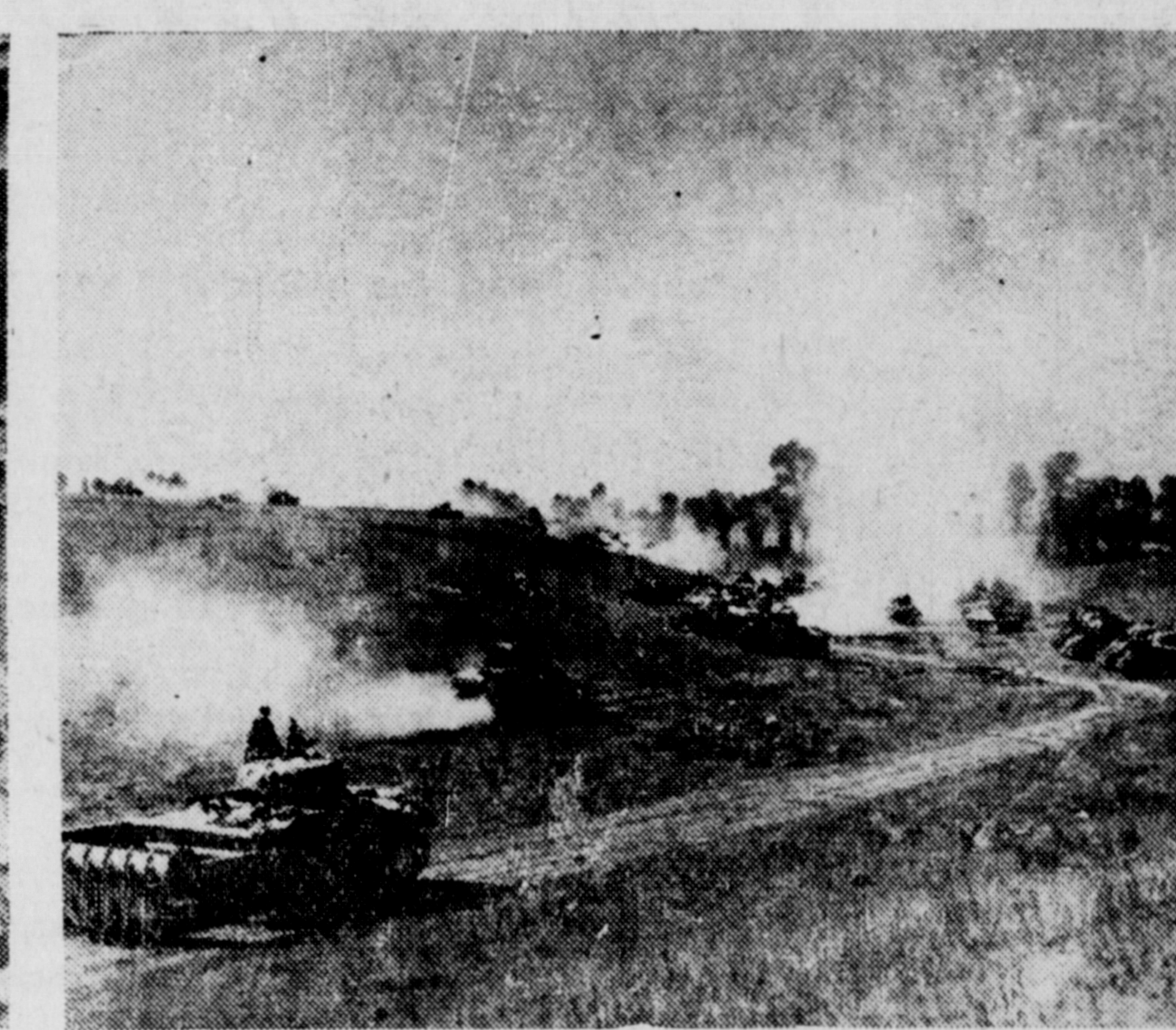
TOUGH NAZIS—They were no match for the Canucks at Ortona. These two, one wounded in the stomach, were marched to the rear at the point of a Tommy-gun in the hands of a Canadian soldier.



D-DAY—Canadians launched their "dagger which pointed to the heart of Berlin," June 6, 1944. The beaches of Normandy are crowded with tanks and their equipment.



CAEN—Milestone in the Canadian advance through France, Canadian troops move cautiously through rubble-strewn streets of Caen.



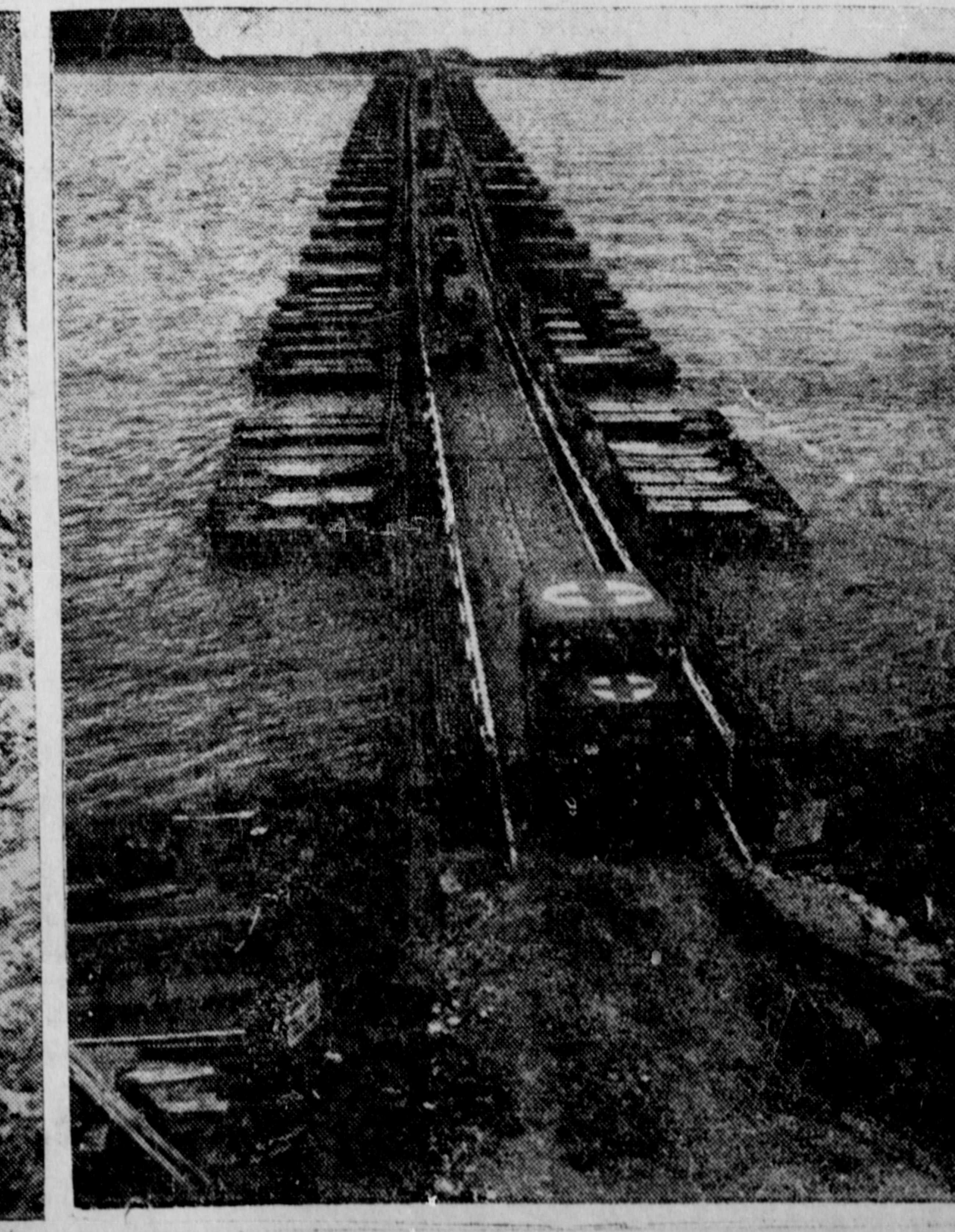
FALAISE—Strong point in the German defences in France captured by Canadians. Canuck armor advances to engage enemy.



SCHELDTE ESTUARY—Crossed in record time by Canadians after the flooding of area by Nazis. Canucks earned the name "water babies."



HOCHWALD—It took fierce fighting to clear the Nazis from the Hochwald. These lads dig in after they helped capture the town.



RHINE CROSSING—Germany's historic defence line was broken by First Canadian Army on bridges thrown across the river by Royal Canadian Engineers under heavy enemy fire. Here a Canadian column clears the great water barrier.